

Issue 32: INSIDER'S EDGE: Care for a refreshment?

Ok, so I can't really offer you any refreshments over e-mail, but I can offer you something just as helpful! Do all the new standards in place due to health reform have you feeling a little cloudy on the details? Feel like a quick refresher might help clear things up?



Well, look no further! Today's edition of the Insider's Edge is dedicated to providing you with a refresher on how to construct a household and determine household income under MAGI (modified adjusted gross income). We first covered this topic way back in *Issue 10: MAGI, Surprising Scenarios for Savvy Case Workers* and *Issue 11: Who's in the household? It's not who you think!*. Since that was a couple of months ago, it's high time for a little review.

Our colleagues over at CMS prepared some helpful materials on calculating household size and household income. Rather than reinvent the wheel, I thought I'd share the presentation and accompanying manual with you.



Remember, as is the case today, to be eligible for Medicaid/MCHP/MCHP Premium, applicants/beneficiaries must be:

- a resident of the Maryland;
- meet citizenship and immigration requirements; and
- have household income below a certain income eligibility level.

MAGI is used to determine eligibility for all of the following eligibility groups :

- 1) Children
- 2) Adults under age 65
- 3) Parents and caretaker relatives
- 4) Pregnant women

We continue to use existing income and household composition rules for other eligibility groups not mentioned above, including eligibility on the basis of being:

- Aged, Blind, Disabled;
- Medically Needy;

- Populations for whom income is not an eligibility factor, such as foster children.

For each individual who is applying for coverage using the Maryland Health Connection single streamlined application, there are three steps that must be taken to determine whether the individual is eligible for Medicaid or MCHP based on MAGI:

- **STEP ONE:** Identify the members of the applicant's/beneficiary's family who are considered part of his or her household and determine family size.
- **STEP TWO:** Add the income of all of the relevant household members of the applicant's/beneficiary's household.
- **STEP THREE:** Compare total household income to the Federal Poverty Level for the applicant's/beneficiary's family size.

Ready for the details? Please take some time to review the attachments to this e-mail.

As always, send your questions to dhmh.medicaidmarge@maryland.gov.